



**SCOPING REPORT FOR THE
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
OF THE
DRAFT TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN
2023-2029**

Environmental Assessment Unit
Kerry County Council
County Buildings
Rathass
Tralee
Co. Kerry

February 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. BACKGROUND	1
1.2. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	5
1.3. ARTICLE 6 OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC	5
1.4. STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT (SFRA)	5
1.5. CLIMATE CHANGE AND A TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON SOCIETY	6
1.6. BIODIVERSITY	6
1.7. WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD)	6
1.8. REPORT STRUCTURE:.....	7
2. POLICY CONTEXT OF THE TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN.....	8
2.1. INTRODUCTION	8
2.2. RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEGISLATION, POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES	8
2.3. THE NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT	9
2.4. TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN.....	9
3. METHODOLOGY FOR THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN.....	12
3.1. GUIDANCE.....	12
3.2. KEY STAGES IN STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	13
4. SCOPING FOR POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN	16
4.1. INTRODUCTION	16
4.2. POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH.....	19
4.3. BIODIVERSITY (FLORA/FAUNA).....	22
4.4. SOILS	24
4.5. WATER.....	25
4.6. AIR QUALITY	28
4.7. CLIMATIC FACTORS.....	30
4.8. MATERIAL ASSETS	31
4.9. CULTURAL HERITAGE INCLUDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE	32
4.10. LANDSCAPE	33
4.11. INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS	33
5. DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN	34
5.1. INTRODUCTION	34
5.2. DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES	34
5.3. ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES.....	35
6. PROPOSED STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OBJECTIVES (SEO), TARGETS AND INDICATORS FOR THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT..	36
6.1. INTRODUCTION	36
6.2. DEVELOPMENT OF SEA SEOS AND TARGETS	36
6.3. DEVELOPMENT OF SEA INDICATORS	36
7. NEXT STAGE	45
7.1. SCOPING CONSULTATION	45

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Further to the adoption of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 (hereafter called the KCDP), Kerry County Council (KCC) has now commenced the drafting of Local Area Plans (LAP) for Municipal Districts (MD) in the county. The purpose of a LAP is to set out a comprehensive local planning framework for the MD that includes policies, objectives and land use zoning in the interests of the common good. A LAP is valid for six years from the date of adoption. Taken in conjunction with the Southern Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) and the KCDP 2022-2028, the Municipal District Local Area Plan (MD LAP) will complete the planning framework for the area while complementing the implementation of the policies and objectives contained in these higher-level plans.

A draft Local Area Plan (LAP) is now being prepared for lands in the Tralee Municipal District (MD) in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. This will include Tralee town. This new plan will replace the existing Tralee Town Plan as contained in the KCDP 2022-2028 (Volume 2) and the Tralee Municipal District LAP 2018-2024¹. It is intended to adopt the Tralee MD LAP in 2023 and it will run for 6 years until 2029.

The area and main settlements of the Tralee MD LAP are shown in Figure 1-1 and listed in Table 1-1 below. Key demographics for the MD at the start of the plan making process are provided in Figure 1-2 – Tralee MD *at a glance*.

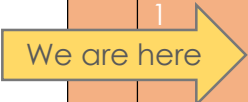
Table 1-1 Main settlements with Tralee MD area in line with the KCDP

Key Town	Tralee
District Towns	Ardfert, Fenit
Villages	Blennerville, The Spa

An overview of the LAP plan making process timescale is provided in Table 1-2. The first stage of the LAP process includes undertaking pre-draft consultation via the publishing of an issues paper. This is to explore current issues relevant to the MD area. It invites all stakeholders and interested parties to identify the issues that they feel need to be addressed in the plan and how the area should be developed. This SEA Scoping Report forms part of the Issues Paper.

¹ Note; due to the reconfiguration of the Municipal districts in 2019, certain sections of the Tralee Municipal District LAP 2018-2024 will stay in effect until they are included within the Castleisland/Corca Dhuibhne MD LAP 2024-30

Table 1-2 MD LAP Plan Making Timescales.

The Process Timeline			
	Stage	Stage Description	Process Timeframe
	1	Pre-Draft Stage	Pre-draft Public Consultation Issues Paper – Feb 2023 (Includes SEA Scoping)
	2	Draft Stage	Public Display of Draft LAP (6 Weeks) Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received (6 Weeks) Council Members Consider the Chief Executive's Report (6 Weeks)
	3	Amendments to Draft Plan	Adopt or Amend LAP (3 weeks) Amendments SEA/AA Screening of amendments commences Public Notice of Material Alterations and Screening Report, Full Environmental Report if Deemed Necessary and Available Subject to Section 20(3) (G). (3 Weeks) Public Display (4 Weeks) Preparation of Chief Executive's Report (4 Weeks) Chief Executive's Report (6 Weeks) Council Members Decision (6 Weeks)
	5	Adopted Plan	Adoption of Local Area Plan (This comes into effect 4 weeks from the date of adoption)
Note: Exact dates may change over the course of the process			

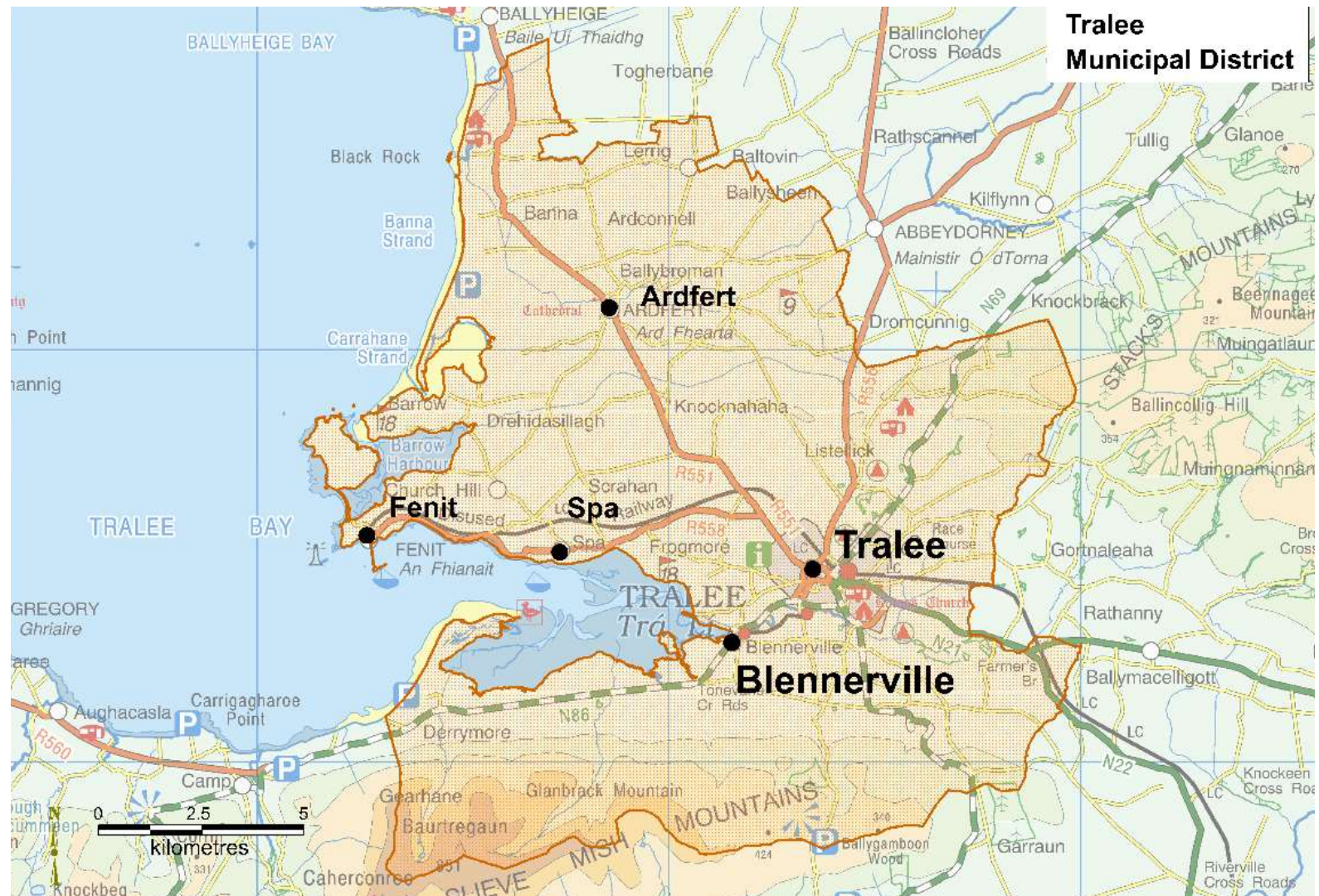


Figure 1-1 Tralee Municipal District Local Area Plan area within County Kerry showing key town; district towns and villages

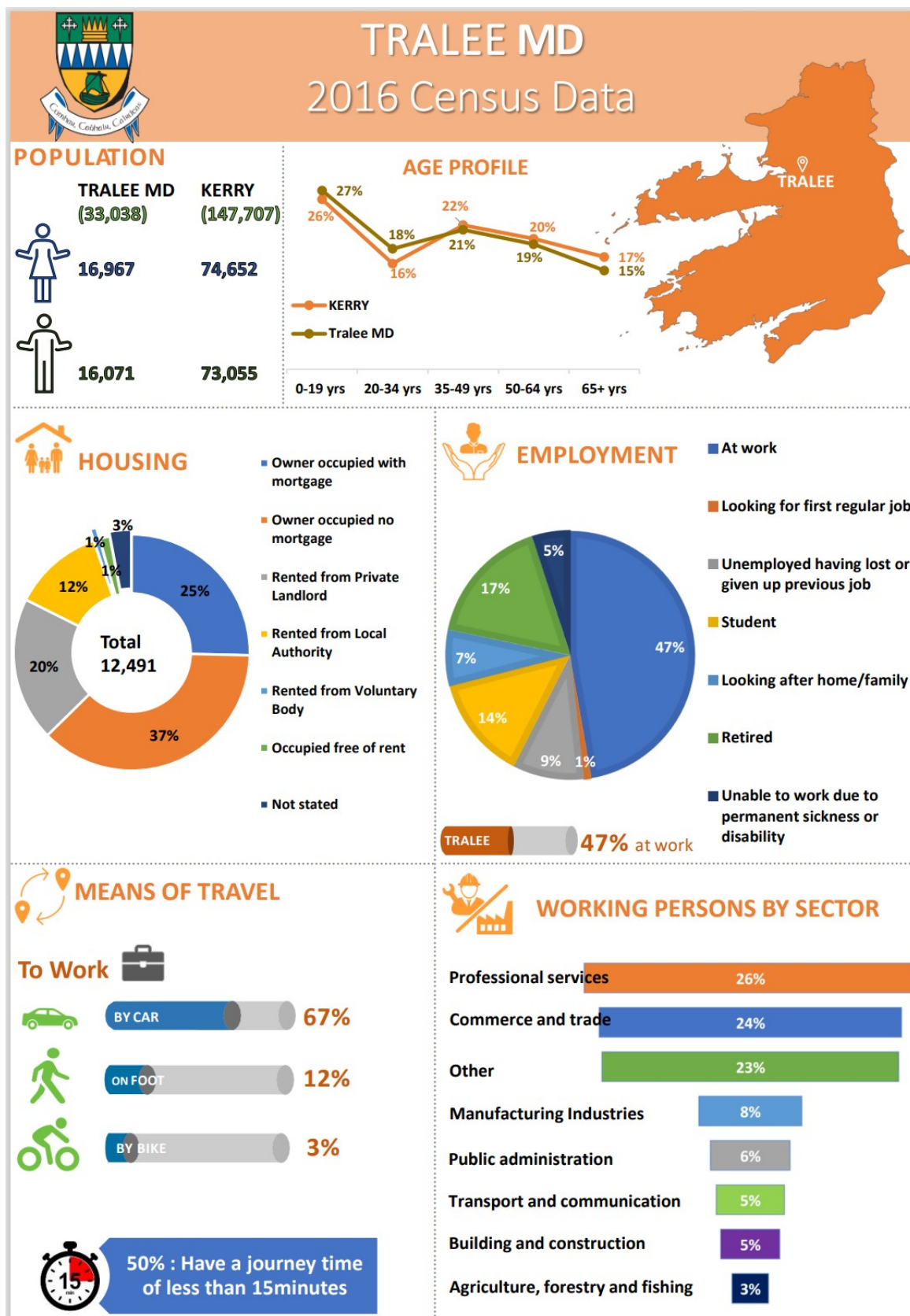


Figure 1-2 Tralee MD at a glance at the start of the MD LAP plan making process

1.2. Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme (P/P), before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme (P/P).

SEA aims to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of plans and programmes is required by European Directive 2001/42/EC *on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes (P/P) on the environment* (commonly known as the *SEA Directive*). For a specific range of land-use plans, this Directive is transposed into Irish law by Statutory Instrument (S.I.) No. 436 of 2004 (the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). Hereafter these are referred to as the 'SEA Planning Regulations'.

The SEA process consists of a series of steps or stages which are:

- **Screening** of the P/P to establish whether it must undergo an SEA;
- **Scoping** of the details to be provided in the Environmental Report (ER), in consultation with environmental authorities;
- **The Environmental Report** (ER) containing the findings of the assessment on the likely significant effects on the environment of the P/P;
- **Consultation** on the Draft Plan and associated Environmental Report;
- **An SEA Statement** - identifying how environmental considerations and consultations have been integrated into the Final Plan; and
- **Monitoring Programme** of the significant environmental effects of the P/P.

Pursuant to the SEA Planning Regulations KCC is required to carry out a SEA for LAPs further to thresholds listed in the above SEA regulations. As the Tralee MD area exceeds those thresholds (5,000 persons or more) screening was therefore deemed unnecessary as a mandatory SEA was required. The SEA proceeded straight to scoping. The scoping process is outlined in this report.

1.3. Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

It should be noted that in addition to the SEA, the Tralee MD LAP will be assessed under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and will inform the SEA process where appropriate.

1.4. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

The Tralee MD LAP is also subject to a SFRA which is running concurrently with the drafting of the plan and other environmental assessments. The SFRA is essentially an assessment of the flood risk of plan area. It is being prepared in accordance with requirements of the DoEHLG and OPW 2009 Guidelines '*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management*'.

1.5. Climate Change and a transition to a low carbon society.

The Tralee MD LAP is being drafted as Ireland's 2023 Climate Action Plan (CAP23) is being published. Planning for climate change is now pivotal to planning policy with the role of spatial planning in the dual strategies of climate action – adaption and mitigation – identified as key strategic climate action.

Spatial planning needs to dictate a vision for future development that supports a decarbonised society. CAP23 supports the need for spatial policy to reflect both mitigation and adaptation policies at a local level. At the time of writing *Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP)* are due to commence a formal statutory plan making process in March 2023. The LAP is likely to be adopted prior to the CAP. However, the LAP will ultimately seek to support climate related actions particularly regarding promotion of consolidated settlement patterns; sustainable travel and active travel initiatives; community heating schemes/micro-generation opportunities; large-scale retrofitting schemes; regeneration of existing building stock and ultimately decarbonisation zones such as the pilot scheme proposed for Dingle.

1.6. Biodiversity

Drafting the LAPs also occurs as international reports continue to outline an unprecedented decline in global biodiversity to which Ireland is not immune. There has been a growing awareness of the importance of both the intrinsic value of biodiversity but also associated “ecosystems services” such as those provided by wild pollinators. Biodiversity as a means to both mitigate and adapt to climate change is also now well acknowledged. This is outlined further in KCC's recently adopted Biodiversity Action Plan included in Volume 6 of the KCDP. The Tralee MD area has a rich and diverse natural heritage. Many ecological sites of International, European, National and local significance occur in the MD with corresponding environmental designations. The Tralee MD area has several watercourses that support salmonid species; extensive upland habitats; sand dunes and wetlands that in turn support an array of birdlife and other wildlife. Equally, hedgerows, wetlands, rivers and streams that criss-cross the MD area act as stepping-stones within the ecological and visual landscape. Combined, the MD's natural heritage has the potential to form an integral part of the existing and potential green and blue infrastructure of the plan area. The MD LAP will therefore need to contain objectives/policies and land zonings that protect the MD's biodiversity, augment its ability to offer positive responses to climate change and reverse declining trends. The plan will need to *make space for nature*.

1.7. Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The third cycle of the WFD is being rolled out in Ireland as the LAP is being drafted with the *National River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027* due for publication². The LAP will support the objectives of the WFD. This process of compliance has in effect been predominately undertaken at the KCDP level, specifically through the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy outlined in Chapter 3 of the KCDP. Both strategies dictate the level of population growth targeted for key settlements in the county. The availability and/or imminent availability of water infrastructure, particularly waste-water infrastructure, was a key factor in this process of population allocation. Working with

² <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/56b71-third-cycle-draft-river-basin-management-plan-2022-2027-consultation-report/>

Irish Water (IW) to provide fit for purpose water infrastructure (waste and drinking) will be required and supported in the LAP. In addition, at a strategic level the KDCP supports compliance with the WFD through for example objectives on nature-based solutions in urban development and in proposed flood schemes; continued support for compliance to EPA codes of practices for domestic waste water treatment systems and protection of water resources during development. The latter includes Local Authority own developments like housing schemes, urban regeneration and active travel (greenways/blueways etc). Development Management Standards and Guidelines outlined in Vol 6 of the KCDP provide specific details on how these measures should be implemented at project level.

1.8. Report structure:

This SEA Scoping report is structured as follows:

Section	Heading
2	Policy Context of the Tralee MD LAP
3	Methodology for the SEA of the Tralee MD LAP
4	Scoping for Possible Environmental Effects of the Tralee MD LAP
5	Development Scenarios for the SEA of the Tralee MD LAP
6	Proposed Environmental Objectives, Targets and Indicators for the SEA
7	Next Stage

2. POLICY CONTEXT OF THE TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN

2.1. Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the SEA process include an assessment of other Plans/Programmes (P/Ps), which are related to the P/P being assessed (Annex I (a) and Schedule 2B of S.I. 436 of 2004). As part of the SEA process the Tralee MD LAP is established with regard to other plans and programmes that have been adopted at International, European, National and Regional level. The purpose of this review is to take into consideration the legislative and policy framework within which the Tralee MD LAP sits and must conform.

2.2. Relevant International and European Legislation, Policies, Plans and Programmes

Policies/objectives contained in a MD LAP are influenced by the objectives of relevant International, National and Regional policies. International and European policy is specifically outlined in Chapter 1 of the KCDP and will not be repeated here. Rather, the LAP will be placed in the context of National policy, as shown below in Figure 2.1.

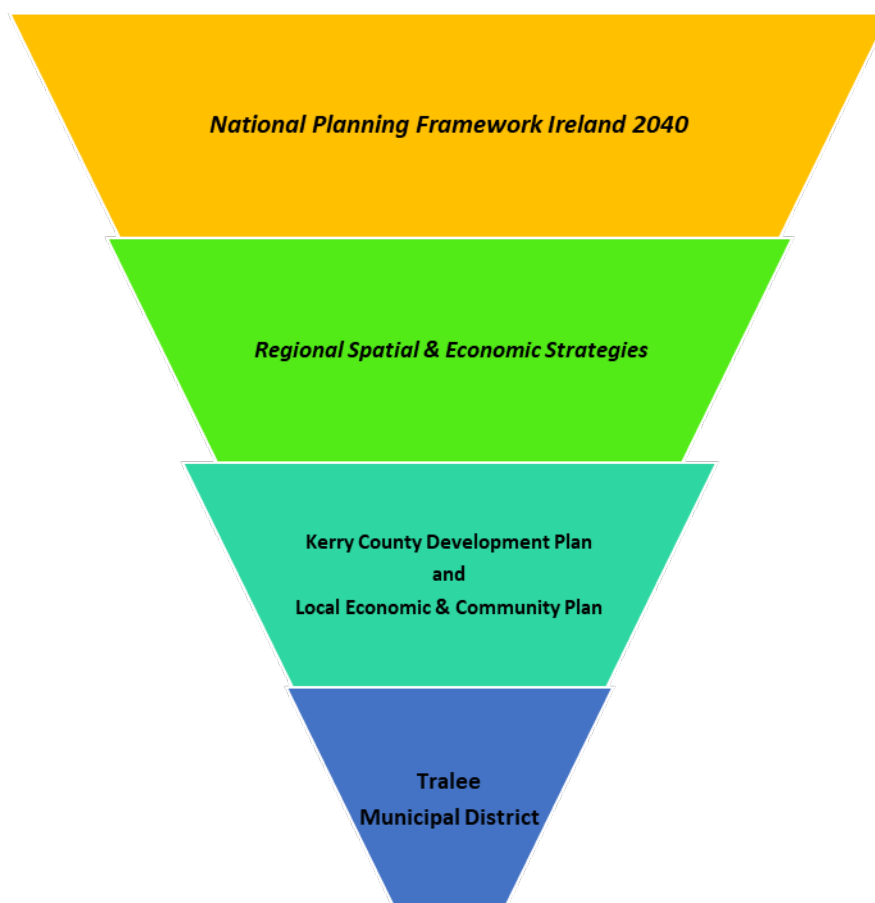


Figure 2-1 Planning Hierarchy context for the Tralee MD LAP within the National planning hierarchy for Spatial Planning

2.3. The National Planning Policy Context

The Tralee MD LAP is located within a clear hierarchy of spatial planning policy shown in Figure 2.1. This hierarchy of National land use planning follows a format which commences with National, Regional and into more area specific LAPs. A MD LAP must therefore adhere to policy and strategic options which are pre-determined by higher level plans, notably in this instance the KCDP and RSES.

As shown in Figure 2.1 the Tralee MD LAP as a LAP is located towards the end of the overall spatial planning decision making hierarchy. At this tier of decision making the LAP will influence a range of locally led environmental, economic and social issues within the geographical range of the plan area.

Information to be provided in a LAP is governed by Section 18-20 of the Planning and Development Act (as amended). It includes:

- (a) objectives for the zoning of land for the use solely or primarily of particular areas for particular purposes, or*
- (b) such other objectives in such detail as may be determined by the planning authority for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which it applies, including the objective of development of land on a phased basis and detail on community facilities and amenities and on standards for the design of developments and structures.*

As discussed, taken in conjunction with the RSES and the KCDP, the Tralee MD LAP will complete the planning framework for the area and complement the implementation of the policies and objectives contained in these higher-level plans. Again, the LAP has to be consistent with the policies and objectives of the KCDP 2022-2028 including the Core strategy/settlement strategy as outlined in Chapter 3.

2.4. Tralee Municipal District Local Area Plan

The LAP is being prepared by KCC to provide a statutory framework for the future growth, development and improvement of the Tralee MD area. The area incorporated into the Tralee MD LAP is illustrated in Figure 1-1.

The key towns, district towns and villages as identified in the settlement hierarchy and Core Strategy outlined in Chapter 3 of the KCDP. The Core Strategy provides for a population allocation in the county of 9,363 persons over the 6 year plan period, which equates to approximately 7,000 new houses. KCC is required to identify and reserve an appropriate amount of land in appropriate locations to meet housing and population targets.

Future housing supply in the Tralee MD Area must be provided in a sustainable manner and demonstrate consistency with the objectives of the KCDP, particularly in relation to the quantum and location of lands identified for development. The Core Strategy has allocated a housing target of 2,087 units to the Tralee and 163 units to the other settlements within the MD area. Development should be within the existing settlement and emphasis is placed on brownfield sites, infill sites and re-use of existing housing stock/vacant buildings. New residential areas should be connected, attractive & well designed with a range of adaptable dwelling types and densities, creating a sense of place & a high-quality public realm. The allocations are provided in more detail below

in Table 2-1. The LAP will therefore provide a written statement and zoning maps for each of the settlements identified in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Population Growth for settlements 2016-2022 and Projected Growth 2022-2028.

	2016 Population	2022 estimate population	Growth Pop allocation	Housing Unit target
Kerry	147,707	155,258	9,363	7,000
Tralee	23,691	25,297	2,663	2,087
Ardfert	749	797	78	61
Fenit	538	572	130	102

2.4.1. Tralee Municipal District LAP Settlement Overview

Tralee is designated as a Key Town in the settlement hierarchy of the KCDP. It is the capital town and main administrative, retail, health, education and service centre for County Kerry and provides a large portion of the county's recreational facilities, culture, archaeological, architectural heritage and linguistic/cultural heritage.

The *District Towns* of **Ardfert & Fenit** are strong, active and vibrant towns. These towns generally provide a wide range of facilities including primary schools, health facilities, and many other diverse community services. These settlements in the Tralee MD area function as local drivers for their surrounding areas through well-established social functions. They support clusters of services, have a significant share of homes and jobs. Fenit deep water port is also a major economic and transportation asset to the County, whilst the marina also offers significant amenity and leisure facilities.

Emphasis will be on the growth of the Key Town of Tralee, and within Ardfert and Fenit to a lesser extent, as the principal locations for future investment in housing, employment, infrastructure, social and community facilities.

Blennerville has a unique character which is to be retained and strengthened, it is important that the individual character and identity of Blennerville is separate to that of Tralee town.

The seaside village of **The Spa** is an attractive residential location. The popular coastal walk between The Spa and Blennerville, in conjunction with the Tralee-Fenit greenway, offers significant amenity and recreational facilities.

Key challenges for these areas include population growth, regeneration of town/settlement centres, digital connectivity, community and social Facilities, local infrastructure and sustainable tourism.

2.4.2. Tralee Municipal District LAP Rural Areas

As noted, the LAP will specifically address the social, economic and environmental development of the identified settlements in the MD. Rural areas defined within the MD will be subject to policy and objectives already outlined in the KCDP as adopted. These policies/objectives, specifically outlined in Chapter 5 *Rural Housing* and Appendix 8 *Rural Housing Types*, have previously undergone an SEA as part of the KCDP. This

report will not re-assess those policies, particularly relating to strategic rural housing settlement policy and rural area types. Rather this SEA will focus on the specific policies and objectives that related to LAP level of land-use planning. Unless otherwise stated, KCDP 2022-2028 policies, objectives and development management standards still apply to the MD area. Therefore, all planning applications received within the Tralee MD will be measured against the contents of the MD LAP and the current KCDP 2022-2028 and/or any subsequent variation.

3. METHODOLOGY FOR THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN

3.1. Guidance

The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Tralee MD LAP will reflect the requirements of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and the SEA Planning Regulations. In a specific Irish legislative context, the following provide guidance on interpreting the SEA Directive and will inform the LAP SEA:

- *Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities*, Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage March 2022,
- OPR Case Study Paper CSP05, Climate Action and the Local Authority Development Plan, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2022,
- Clarke, D. (2021) Local Government Climate Action Key Performance Indicators – Literature Review, Dublin: Local Government Management Agency,
- *SEA of Local Authority Land-Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources* 2022 Version 1.18.
- *Good practice guidance on Cumulative Effects Assessment in SEA*, EPA 2020,
- *Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring*, EPA 2020, as included as an appendix in the *Second Review of Strategic Environmental Assessment Effectiveness in Ireland* (González, A.; Riki, T., Gaughran A. and Bullock C. 2020),
- *Integrating Climatic Factors into the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process in Ireland*, EPA, 2019
- *SEA Effectiveness Review in Ireland - Action Plan 2018-2020*, EPA 2018,
- *The Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) WebTool and User Manual*,
- *SEA Spatial Information Sources Inventory*, June 2019, EPA,
- *GISEA Manual Improving the Evidence Base in SEA*, EPA, 2015,
- *Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines*, EPA 2016,
- *Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA*, EPA 2015,
- *Implementation of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC: Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities*, Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Guidelines (2004),
- *Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland*, Synthesis Report, Environmental Protection Agency, and
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No 201 of 2011) and Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2011 SI 262 of 2011, amending the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No.436 of 2004).

3.2. Key stages in Strategic Environmental Assessment

The SEA process consists of a series of steps or stages which are:

- **Screening** of the P/P to establish whether it must undergo an SEA;
- **Scoping** of the details to be provided in the Environmental Report (ER), in consultation with environmental authorities;
- **The Environmental Report** (ER) containing the findings of the assessment on the likely significant effects on the environment of the P/P;
- **Consultation** on the Draft Plan and associated Environmental Report;
- **An SEA Statement** - identifying how environmental considerations and consultations have been integrated into the Final Plan; and
- **Monitoring Programme** of the significant environmental effects of the P/P.

Pursuant to the SEA Planning Regulations KCC is required to carry out a SEA for LAPs further to thresholds listed in the above SEA regulations. As the Tralee MD area exceeds those thresholds (5,000 persons or more) screening was therefore deemed unnecessary as a mandatory SEA was required. The SEA proceeded straight to scoping. This report specifically addresses step 2 of the SEA, the Scoping Report of the SEA for the Tralee MD LAP 2023-2029.

The SEA will be informed by an assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (Section 1.3), the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Section 1.4) and have due regard to the Water Framework Directive (Section 1.7). Table 3-1 explains the full integration of the drafting of the Tralee MD LAP, the SEA, SFRA and the assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

3.2.1. Scoping

The purpose of scoping in the SEA process is two fold – to “scope” possible environmental effects of the plan in consultation with key stakeholders. Scoping identifies the likely extent (geographic, temporal and thematic) and level of detail for the environmental assessment and the information to be included in the SEA Environmental Report. Key stakeholders are then consulted with and asked to comment on the key environmental issues and elements of the P/P. Scoping should identify issues that are of most importance so that these can be addressed in more detail and eliminate those that are not of significance.

The stages in the scoping process are:

- Determination of the key goals and objectives of the P/P that relate to the environment;
- Determination of the key environmental issues to be assessed;
- Reporting on relevant international, national and local policies, plans and programmes that may influence the P/P;
- Development of environmental protection objectives (EPOs), indicators and targets; and
- Identification of reasonable alternative strategies of achieving the strategic goals of the P/P.

This report is the SEA scoping report for the draft Tralee Municipal District Local Area Plan 2023-2029 (here after referred to as the Tralee MD LAP) for submission to statutory and non-statutory consultation bodies. The study area for the report is shown in Figure 1-1.

Table 3-1 Integration of SEA, SFRA and assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive

STAGES IN PLAN MAKING PROCESS	PLAN	SEA	SFRA	Article 6 of the Habitats Directive
Pre-review	Preparation of Issues Papers	SEA mandatory for LAP/ screening not applicable	-	-
Initial public consultation	Publication of (a) statutory notice of intention to make MD LAP	Scoping of the ER, in consultation with environmental authorities noting SFRA to be undertaken and compliance with WFD		Notify consultees that an assessment under Art 6 will be undertaken
Preparation of Documentation	Preparation of draft plan	Preparation of ER including submissions made in scoping. The process will be iterative, amendments will be made to the plan by SEA where required, and record made of same	Inform plan making process, will be iterative	An assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive will be drafted in parallel with SEA and Plan. The process will be iterative, amendments will be made to the plan where required, and record made of same
Public consultation	Public display of draft plan and consideration of submissions	Public display of ER/SFRA and consideration of submissions		Public display of Assessment under Article 6 and consideration of submissions
2nd public display (if required)	Display of any material amendment(s) to draft plan	Identify any significant environmental effects resulting from material amendments		Identify any likely significant effects on European sites resulting from material amendments
Completion of process	Adoption of plan	Making specified information available in the form of a SEA Statement	Finalise SFRA	Provide information on the Article 6 process
Post-plan	Implementation	Monitoring of significant environmental effects		Monitoring, if required/appropriate

3.2.2. Scoping Consultation Authorities

As required by the SEA Planning Regulations, and further to the *Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities* (DHLGH March 2022), environmental authorities that must be consulted in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report are as follows³:

- Environmental Protection Agency,
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage including the DAU,
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications,
- Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, and
- any adjoining planning authority whose area is continuous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan [there is none in the instance of this MD Lap]

This Scoping Report has therefore been emailed to the above statutory consultancy. The consultation period, as defined by the SEA Regulations, is at least 4 weeks.

Also, as per best practices this scoping report will be made available on KCC's website at <https://consult.kerrycoco.ie/en>.

3.2.3. Outcome of the Scoping Exercise

The findings and comments received as part of the scoping process will be included and addressed in the SEA ER. It will be published with the draft plan for public consultation under Section 20(3) of the Planning and Development Act, as amended.

³ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3539d-strategic-environmental-assessment-sea/#environmental-authorities-contact-details> [accessed in November 2022].

4. SCOPING FOR POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN

4.1. Introduction

In line with the SEA Directive, an environmental baseline will be compiled for the plan area. This will include a description of the state of the environment at present; discussion of the key problems/ issues currently being faced in the area; and a description of the expected evolution of the environment should the plan not be implemented, i.e. in the absence of the plan.

A brief description of the geographical setting of the plan area is included in Section 2.4 of this document. The Environmental Report will expand on the existing information and contain a full description of the Environmental Baseline data in the plan area and adjoining areas, where applicable. The key environmental baseline data for the LAP area will be discussed under the parameters outlined in Schedule 2B (f) of SI No 436/2004. They are:

- population/human health,
- biodiversity (flora, fauna),
- soil,
- water,
- air quality
- climatic factors,
- material assets
- cultural assets (architecture, archaeology),
- landscape, and
- the interrelationship between the above factors.

As noted, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will also inform the MD LAP.

The next sections will outline what the potential significant effects, positive and/or negative, that the Tralee MD LAP will have on the environment and therefore be "scoped in" for the ER. The environment is defined as the parameters outlined in Schedule 2B (f) of SI No 436/2004 and listed above. Table 4-1 below is a non-exhaustive list of the information sources that will be used to compile the environmental baseline for each environmental parameter.

In addition to the sources of information listed in the table below, it is noted that *Environmental Sensitivity Mapping* (ESM) has been developed by the EPA/UCD/AIRO/OSI. The ESM takes the form of a web-tool that provides spatial data sets on a range of environmental parameters of relevance to this SEA. It has been developed as a decision-making support tool for environment processes in Ireland, including SEA. The tool will be reviewed as part of the SEA for the Tralee MD LAP.

Table 4-1 Environmental Information Sources for use in the ER.

Environmental Parameters	Information Sources
Population/Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census data including 2022 data as it becomes available, • Local Enterprise Office (LEO), KCC • Capital Infrastructure Unit (CIU), KCC • Vacant Site Office/Derelict Site office • Housing Statistics including the targets from <i>Housing For All</i> and other national schemes including <i>Croi Conaithe</i> Fund. • Environment Section, KCC • Enforcement Section, KCC • EPA – annual air and water quality reports including for drinking and waste water infrastructure. • EPA Real time Air quality monitors.
Biodiversity (flora, fauna),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), • Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), • National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) • WFD map viewer/catchments.ie • Biodiversity Office, KCC • Kerry Biodiversity Plan 2022-2028 • Bird Watch Ireland (BWI) • Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) • Wetlands Survey Ireland website and county survey • Invasive Species Ireland website • Bat Conservation Ireland
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) map viewer including bedrock, subsoil, soil datasets and sites from the Irish Geological Heritage Programme (IGH) • CORINE • Teagasc Soil Map, • PIP maps from WFD app • EPA map viewer
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA map viewer • WFD map viewer/catchments.ie • EPA annual reports on water quality; drinking water and waste-water quality. • GSI map viewer • Environment Section, KCC • LAWPRO • IFI • Irish Water • Environment Section, KCC • Enforcement Section, KCC
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Real time Air quality monitors, • Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) • Environment Section, KCC • Enforcement Section, KCC
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA • Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

Environmental Parameters	Information Sources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerry Climate Adaptation Strategy, 2019-2023 • Climate Change Co-ordinator Office, KCC • Energy Office, KCC • Information from the Local Authority CAP as it becomes available, • SEAI • Flooding Section, KCC
Material assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads Section, KCC • Municipal District Office • National Roads Design Office, KCC, • Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) • Environment Section, KCC • Broadband Officer, KCC • Irish Water • CIU, KCC
Cultural assets (architecture, archaeology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register of PS & Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) listed in the KCDP 2022-2028 • NIAH for Kerry • Kerry SMR/RMP as listed in the KCDP 2022-2028 • Archaeological Special Protection Areas listed in the KCDP 2022-2028 • County Archaeologist, KCC • Conservation Officer, KCC • Arts Officer, KCC.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing landscape designations within KCDP 2022-2028 • Landscape Character Assessment that formed part of the KCDP 2022-2028 • Village Design statements/Public realm reports • Architectural Conservation Areas listed in the KCDP 2022-2028
SFRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources are identified in the DoEHLG/OPW 2009 Guidelines '<i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management</i>', • The SFRA of the KCDP 2022-2028, • See also the SFRA of the Tralee MD LAP

4.2. Population and Human Health

4.2.1. Population

The Tralee MD LAP is being drafted as the 2022 census data is being released. Recent population figures indicate that Kerry has seen a 5.1% increase in population figures across the county – see Table 4-2. Preliminary population figures of the entire Tralee Municipal District Area in 2022 Census were 35,312. This is an increase of 6.9% from 2016.

Table 4-2 Population Figures in each MD area from 2006

Municipal District	2006	2011	2016	2022	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2022
Kenmare	23,866	24,562	25,062	27,076	2.9%	2.0%	8.0%
Castleisland-Corca Dhuibhne	29,754	31,195	31,326	32,791	4.8%	0.4%	4.7%
Listowel	27,155	28,802	28,674	29,171	6.1%	-0.4%	1.7%
Tralee	31,878	33,265	33,038	35,312	4.4%	-0.7%	6.9%
Killarney	27,182	27,678	29,607	30,908	1.8%	7.0%	4.4%
Total	139,835	145,502	147,707	155,258	4.1%	1.5%	5.1%

This population increase is set within population growth trends seen in the county between the 2011 and 2016 census. These inter-census figures indicated that much of the population growth in the county was in rural areas. Essentially, population growth was outside of the development boundary of the settlements in the plan area.

The Tralee MD LAP is now framed within the settlement hierarchy/core strategy set out in Chapter 3 of the KCDP as informed by the RSES. The aim of the LAP is therefore to consolidate this strategy by focusing projected population growth, over the lifetime of the plan, into settlements outlined in Table 2-1 as contained in the KCDP and the RSES.

A main function of the new LAP is therefore to ensure that the population growth allocated to the MD is targeted to the key urban settlements, in particular Tralee as a key town. This will be in line with National and Regional planning policy for consolidated growth into urban areas and infill of brownfield sites. Specifically, the Programme for Government 2020 commitment to a 'Town Centre First' policy approach, founded on the Town Centre Health Check research, to ensure that urban areas become vibrant places for living and working in by bringing vacant and urban building stock back into use.

Other linked policies such as *Housing For All*, *10min towns/the promotion of town centre living/place making*; *urban regeneration*; *vacant site levy/derelict levy*; *the recent Residential Zoned Land Tax* and *active travel initiatives* will all play a significant role in making towns and villages in the MD places where people want to work but also live. There are several *opportunity sites* in Tralee town identified as having potential to lever economic and social development of the town but also the wider MD.

As discussed, policy in relation to rural areas outside settlements is outlined in the KCDP specifically Chapter 5 *Rural Housing* and Appendix 8 *Rural Housing Types*. This rural settlement policy will not be altered or amended in the MD LAP. As such it will be scoped out of the SEA. Rural housing policy has already been subject to a SEA as part

of the drafting of the KCDP. As no changes are proposed to this policy, it will not be considered as this SEA moves forwards along the steps outlined in Section 3.2.

4.2.2. Human Health

As regards human health, several environmental parameters fall within the scope of human health, namely water quality; air quality and the state of both waste-water and drinking water infrastructure in the MD area. Again, the Core Strategy outlined in the KCDP was predicated on availability of or the imminent availability of water infrastructure (drinking and waste-water) over the lifetime of the KCDP. Therefore, only settlements with or likely to have (over the lifetime of the plan), adequate water infrastructure were targeted for population growth. This will not be re-assessed in the ER report as the strategic decision has already been made, assessed and adopted in the KCDP further to the SEA undertaken at that time.

Of note is the EPA's *Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2021* report that records where Irish Water should prioritise work needed to prevent waste water from harming rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters. Works to Tralee's Urban Waste Water Treatment Plant (UWWTP) is identified as a priority area. The discharge from the plant is also highlighted as requiring an assessment of the impacts of waste water discharges on Tralee Bay designated shellfish waters. Regarding drinking water, the Central Regional Lough Guitane scheme is recorded in the EPA's *Drinking Water Quality in Public Supplies 2021* report for having a water restriction notice in 2021. The restriction however was confined to several households in Tralee with corroding cast iron mains. The pipes have since been replaced and the issue is resolved⁴. Water as an environmental parameter in the MD area is discussed in more detail in Section 4.5 of this report.

Other issues relating to human health in the MD to be assessed is air quality. Tralee town in particular periodically records high levels of Particulate Matter (PM)⁵ linked to space heating. This is discussed in more detail in Section 4.6 Air and Section 4.7 Climatic Factors. Synergies between health and housing stock is also of relevance. Older housing stock traditionally have less energy efficient heating systems often reliant on fossil fuels. Climate policy linked to retrofitting houses for both comfort and energy efficiency will be supported in the plan and will benefit human health. Tralee and environs have naturally occurring high levels of Radon⁶ and is subsequently identified as a *high radon area* by the EPA.

Finally, a deeper understanding of health and wellbeing has developed over the last number of years. The EPA's most recent *Ireland's State of the Environment Report, An Integrated Assessment 2020* recognises the benefits of a good quality environment to health and wellbeing.

⁴ Water Services KCC, per com 11/11/22

⁵ <https://airquality.ie/>

⁶ <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Radon?&lid=EPA:RadonRiskMapofIreland>

Having regard to the above, the potential likely significant effects of implementing the Tralee MD LAP on population/human health for consideration in the ER include but are not limited to:

- The settlement patterns supported and likely effects on commuting distances to work, educational facilities, childcare, retail and amenity/recreational activities
- *opportunity sites* in the MD as drivers for economic and social development
- Access to employment
- Access to community/public facilities
- Active Travel initiatives that also promote walking/cycling for health and well being
- Promoting *10 min towns/placemaking* initiatives
- Supporting *Housing for All* and the provision of housing within our settlements
- The provision of crèches, childcare facilities and facilities for the elderly
- Access to and protection of cultural heritage
- Access to amenities/outdoor/recreational activities
- Improve integration of green and blue infrastructure into urban development
- Local air quality
- Water quality – drinking and amenity
- Treatment/management of waste-water discharges including storm/surface water management

4.3. Biodiversity (Flora/Fauna)

The Tralee MD LAP area contains a number of International, European, National and local sites of ecological interest with corresponding environmental designations. Most notable are designations for bird species, including Tralee Bay Complex SPA to the west of the MD area and the Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA to the east and northeast. The Tralee Bay Complex SPA overlaps with the Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula West to Cloghane cSAC. This cSAC covers an extensive area that includes the entire bays of Tralee and Brandon. Other cSAC designations include the Slieve Mish Mountains predominately designated for upland terrestrial habitats and Ballyseedy Woods on the outskirts of Tralee town for its wet alluvial woodland habitat. Along the coast the Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour cSAC is designated for priority dune habitat and other marine/estuarine and coastal habitats. Two *Nature Reserves* in Tralee Bay overlap with European Site designations – Derrymore Island Nature Reserve and Tralee Bay Nature Reserve.

Local sites of ecological interest include several pNHAs that overlap with the Tralee Bay to Magharees Peninsula West to Cloghane cSAC while the pNHA of Church Hill Woods is also located in the MD area. Other sites of local ecological value – hedgerows, wetlands, watercourses - that are undesignated but are protected in the KCDP 2022-2028 and/or under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 1976, (as amended) act as stepping stones within the broader landscape of the MD. This includes spaces within the MD towns and villages where natural heritage blends into these settlements often due to their peri-urban development. Tralee town park is a significant green space within the main settlement of the MD.

Nearly, all waterbody types as defined under the WFD occur within the MD area – surface, ground, transitional and coastal although no significant lakes occur. Significant pressures on waterbodies within the MD are predominately related to agricultural and forestry, land uses outside of the scope of the LAP. Water, as an environmental parameter, is discussed in more detail in Section 4.5. Extensive coastal waters to the west of the MD support significant ecological resources with common dolphins, birds of special conservation interest and other wildlife a common occurrence in coastal waters and associated habitats. Tralee town is directly linked to coastal area via the canal with existing/proposed active travel infrastructure.

It is noted that the KCDP outlined significant strategic policy/objectives relating to the protection of biodiversity in the county. This included the adoption of the Kerry Biodiversity Action Plan 2022-2028 (KBAP) as included in Volume 6. Again, policy that relates to rural areas has been strategically assessed in the KCDP and it will not be re-assessed in the SEA ER of this LAP. Rather, it is envisaged that this SEA will seek to assess how proposals in the MD LAP could potentially impact on biodiversity – negatively but also potentially in the positive. For example, seeking to enhance biodiversity in settlements via supporting existing green and blue infrastructure in the towns and villages and/or enhancing/embedding biodiversity where possible as part of urban regeneration projects and evolving planning policy. As noted in the KBAP – the aim is to make space for nature. Climate action will also be considered and this is discussed in more detail in Section 4.7.

Having regard to the above, the potential likely significant effects of implementing the Tralee MD LAP on biodiversity, for consideration in the ER include but are not limited to:

- Direct and indirect impacts on habitat/species
- Impacts (positive and negative) on water quality/quantity which supports freshwater/estuarine/coastal species and habitats
- Disturbance to species from zoning/development
- Fragmentation of habitats from zoning/development
- Introduction/spread of invasive species
- Recreation impacts on upland and coastal habitats/species
- Tourism, especially eco-tourism, related pressures on habitats/species
- Coastal erosion of both “soft” and “hard” coastlines,
- Improving urban biodiversity by *making space for nature*,
- Climate change and effects on biodiversity
- Potential loss of functionally linked habitats,
- Protect/Enhance biodiversity in urban area – *make space for nature*.

4.4. Soils

Soil types in the Tralee MD area are broadly represented by lowland mineral soils to the centre of the MD area in and around Tralee town. Mountainous/hill soils and peat soils occur to the north/northeast (Stacks Mountains), and south (Slieve Mish Mountains).⁷ Of note is a band of limestone that particularly outcrops in and around Fenit⁸.

The entire west boundary of the MD area is coastal. Geology/soils types reflect the marine nature of this border with extensive sandy deposits. The coastline is predominately soft with extensive sand dune systems and salt marsh habitat occurring at the interface between land and sea.

In relation to geological heritage, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) through the Irish Geological Heritage Programme (IGH) has identified important geological and geomorphological sites (County Geological Sites (CGS)) throughout the country. Several occur within the Tralee MD. To date IGH sites in Kerry have not been designated as NHAs. They are however protected via an objective in the KCDDP.

Having regard to the above, the potential likely significant effects of implementing the Tralee MD LAP on soil and for consideration in the ER include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on soil (compaction, loss of soil resource) from zoning for specific development in green field sites,
- Use of infill/brownfield sites,
- Consolidating growth in urban areas protected soil resources in rural areas,
- Treatment of development sites zoned within brown field sites
- Impacts on CGS from zoning/ developments
- Erosion of soil particularly along watercourses by upstream/downstream developments
- Coastal erosion particularly of sand dune systems.

⁷ County Kerry Agriculture Resource Survey, Published by County Kerry Committee of Agriculture Tralee, Ireland, 1972

⁸ *Ibid*

4.5. Water

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is key environmental legislation governing the management of water (surface/freshwater, groundwater, coastal and transitional) in Ireland. At the time of writing (February 2023) the third cycle of the WFD's River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) is in draft and due for publication.

Tralee MD is located within the larger Tralee Bay-Feale Catchment⁹. As mentioned, all waterbody types, bar lakes, occur within the Tralee MD. The *significant issues* identified for many of the waterbodies are linked to excess nutrients and morphological impacts. *Significant pressures* identified relate to agriculture followed by hydromorphological pressures, urban waste-water, forestry and peat. To note, all bar urban waste water are land uses outside the scope of this report. Where waterbodies in the MD have *significant pressures* linked to sustainable development and proper planning, it is noted that the KCDP has addressed many of these strategic issues. This includes protection of water resources and overall compliance with the WFD – for example compliance with the Drinking Water Directive and in rural areas compliance of one-off housing with the EPA CoP for domestic waste water treatment systems. Therefore, while several waterbodies in the MD are subject to pressures from domestic waste-water discharges (ie single house septic tanks); quarries or industrial discharges, it is noted these pressures are already assessed and mitigated in the KCDP. Ultimately it is the septic tank inspection programme, compliance with discharge licences etc which the KCDP supports, that will address these issues/pressures. As such these issues/pressures are not considered relevant to this report and will be scoped out of the SEA.

Of note for the LAP however are the waterbodies identified where urban waste water discharges (point and diffuse) are the *significant pressure*. Two catchments identified as Areas for Action (AFA) under the 3rd cycle – the Tyshe (near Ardfert) and the entire River Lee Catchment.

Regarding the Tyshe the Ardfert WWTP has been upgraded and the discharge is now in compliance with its EPA licence¹⁰. Other pressures however remain on the catchment upstream – also linked to domestic waste water and other land uses outside the scope of the LAP¹¹. Ardfert village, further to its upgraded UWWTP, is now a settlement considered for population growth in the LAP. The Tyshe, due to other pressures, will however remain an AFA in the 3rd cycle with a “restore” objective.

Regarding the Lee, the entire Lee (Tralee) and estuary sub-catchment including Tralee Bay is *at risk* and will remain an AFA for the 3rd cycle with a “retore” objective. The significant pressure on the transitional/coastal waters is linked to Tralee town's Urban Waste Water Plant (UWWP)¹². As noted, the plant is highlighted in the EPA 2021 UWWTP report. Storm overflows, and associated urban surface water drainage, form part of

⁹3rd Cycle Draft Tralee Bay-Feale Catchment Report (HA 23), Catchment Science & Management Unit Environmental Protection Agency, August 2021 Version no. 1

¹⁰Tyshe Priority Area for Action Desk Study Summary, LAWPRO, June 2020.

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Lee (Tralee & Estuary) Priority Area for Action (PAA) Desk Study Summary, LAWPRO, November 2019.

the significant pressure¹³. This is being addressed as part of Irish Water's *Drainage Area Plan*. Nitrogen and particularly Phosphorous are issues within the transitional waters. Tralee bay coastal waters are also identified as a Nutrient Sensitive Area (NSA) under the WFD¹⁴. They have a high ecological status objective (HES) which it is achieving¹⁵. Tralee Bay is also a *Shellfish Area* designated under the Shellfish Waters Directive. There are obvious implications on fisheries and human health relating to water quality of these coastal waters. Bathing waters in the MD are found at Fenit and Banna Beach - both with *Blue Flag* designations retained in 2022¹⁶.

As discussed in Section 4.2.2, the Central Regional Lough Guitane scheme is recorded in the EPA's *Drinking Water Quality in Public Supplies 2021* report for having a water restriction notice in 2021. The restriction however was confined to several households in Tralee with corroding cast iron mains. The pipes have since been replaced and the issue resolved.

Fenit WWTP discharges directly into the coastal waters of Tralee Bay. The plant has a consent for an upgrade and the upgrade is pending funding from IW. Fenit is targeted for growth in the LAP, however this is dependent of upgraded waste infrastructure being available.

Only Tralee has a significant surface waterbody close to the town and within the settlement boundary – the River Lee and Big River – all part of the Lee Catchment. Fenit, Blennerville and the Spa are all in close proximity to coastal waterbodies while Ardfert is relatively removed from nearby coastal waters.

Finally, it is noted that the LAP will support flood schemes, including the proposed Tralee flood relief scheme developed under the OPW CFRAM flood risk management plan UOM23.

Having regard to the above, the potential likely significant effects of implementing the Tralee MD LAP on water, for consideration in the ER include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the water quality of freshwater, groundwater systems and coastal/marine and transitional waters from point and diffuse discharges related with zoning/development (existing and proposed)
- Urban run-off and waste water (existing and proposed)
- Water quantity and/or associated abstraction from freshwater/groundwater systems related to zoning/development (existing and proposed)
- Impacts on riparian and associated terrestrial habitats from zoning/developments including flood risk works
- Impacts on marine/coastal and transitional habitats and species from zoning/developments including flood risk works

¹³3rd Cycle Draft Tralee Bay-Feale Catchment Report (HA 23), Catchment Science & Management Unit Environmental Protection Agency, August 2021 Version no. 1

¹⁴ *ibid*

¹⁵ *ibid*

¹⁶ <https://beachawards.ie/blue-flag>

- Impacts on groundwater dependent terrestrial habitats from zoning/developments
- Flood risk and appropriate zoning of lands identified as at risk of flooding
- Impacts on the hydromorphology of freshwater systems
- Impacts on geomorphology of coastal systems from proposed coastal protection works
- Introduction/spread of invasive species
- Impacts on sites listed in the Register of Protected Areas/Shellfish directive and maintaining high status waters

4.6. Air Quality

The EPA's most recent Ambient Air Monitoring Programme (AAMP) report on air quality relates to 2021 data - *Air Quality in Ireland 2021*¹⁷. This 2021 report and the 2020 *Ireland's State of the Environment Report, An Integrated Assessment 2020* details the main air quality trends based on monitoring from the national ambient air quality network. Reporting from 2021 states that air quality in Ireland is generally good. While monitoring shows that PM_{2.5} and NO₂ levels are within the current EU legal limits, these pollutants exceed the World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality guidelines (AQGs) for health.

Regarding local data, there are now three EPA national air quality monitoring stations in the county. One is located in the Valentia Observatory in Cahirciveen and one each in Tralee and Killarney. Real-time data for both towns can be viewed through the EPA's website airquality.ie. The EPA's Air Quality Index for Health (AQIH) also provides real-time information on air quality linked to health. Of interest to this MD is evidence from localised studies undertaken by the EPA/other research institutes over the last decade on air quality in urban areas outside of our main cities. These studies, including one undertaken in both Tralee and Killarney¹⁸, noted the significant negative impacts space heating systems has on local air quality – particularly particulate matter (PM). Coal, peat and wet timber were highlighted.

This research, and associated climate and other health policy, has ultimately culminated in the recent coming into effect in Ireland of the *Solid Fuel Regulations 2022*¹⁹. The primary function of the regulations is on improving air quality and improving people's health by restricting the retail, online and commercial sale of smoky fuels, including smoky coal, turf and wet wood. As noted, research has identified these fuels are a major contributor to air pollution and are linked to poor health in the population.

Linked to the type of fuel burned is the nature of the housing stock. Several of the aforementioned surveys noting efforts to improve air quality in towns will need to also address how domestic residences are heated in general, rather than attempting to discourage the use of one specific fuel. This ties in with the many actions proposed under climate policy form retro-fitting and/or upgrading heating systems and homes for energy efficiency. This is addressed in more detail in the Section 4.7 Climate.

Having regard to the above, the potential likely significant effects of implementing the Tralee MD LAP on air for consideration in the ER include but are not limited to:

- Consolidated growth pattern which can facilitate roll out of communal heating schemes and retro-fitting schemes and/or micro-generation schemes from renewable energy,
- Consolidated growth patterns that reduces the need for long-distance commuting thereby reducing emissions,

¹⁷ <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/air/quality/epairqualityreport2019.html>

¹⁸ *Assessing the Impact of Domestic Solid Fuel Burning on Ambient Air Quality in Ireland, Assessment of Particulate Air Pollution and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons Associated with Solid Fuel Usage in Four Towns in Ireland*

¹⁹ <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/licensing/air/solid-fuel-regulations/>

- Consolidated growth that promotes active travel networks including greenways and other pedestrian/ non-car friendly infrastructure
- Integration of green infrastructure/green spaces/urban landscaping to absorb air pollution,
- Impacts on air quality from proposed zoning and related developments specifically any requiring licensing under air quality legislation.

4.7. Climatic Factors

Planning for climate change is now central to National planning policy. A key challenge is to integrate (or mainstream) climate action into all levels of national, regional and local decision-making. This is envisaged by the parallel national dual strategies of mitigation - of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and adaptation - to the impacts of climate change.

Nationally, responses are now being led by Government through evolving climate policy culminating in the publication of CAP23. Local Government has been identified as a key leader in climate action. Proper planning and sustainable development are now underpinned by climate policy namely consolidating growth of our towns and villages. Promoting compact settlement patterns seeks to underpin cutting emissions across a range of sectors, notably heating and transport. Compact growth, for example, will ensure shorter trips to employment, education, schools social contact and activities. This creates more possibilities for active and sustainable travel resulting in a lowering of emissions from transport. Compact patterns of development also facilitate shared public services such as district heating, wastewater infrastructure and greater synergies in energy efficiencies in our building stock for example retro-fitting schemes and/or micro-generation. All are actions that will reduce household and other sectorial emissions. The growing importance of biodiversity and nature conservation as a means to both mitigate and adapt to climate change is also of relevance covering a range of actions from nature-based solutions; pollinator friendly landscaping; green infrastructure for shade areas/nature and health/well-being. It is noted many of the responses to climate action will be co-beneficiary for water, biodiversity, air and soil.

These climate action principles will underpin the preparation of the LAP. They will help secure the implementation of the climate change objectives and policies as set out in the Kerry County Development plan 2022-2028, the *Kerry Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019*, the Kerry BAP and any future policy and/or sectorial emissions targets to be set out in the County's future *Climate Action Plan* which is due to commence in 2023.

Having regard to the above, the potential likely significant effects of implementing the Tralee MD LAP on climate, for consideration in the ER include but are not limited to:

- Settlement patterns and commuting distances to work, education, childcare and amenity/recreational activities
- Consolidated growth to support communal heating schemes and retrofitting of buildings and/or micro-generation schemes
- Re-use of existing building stock,
- Re-use/re-generation of derelict sites/vacant properties
- Development/promotion of active travel
- Support of nature-based solutions within urban developments,
- Introduction/spread of invasive species
- Impacts on air quality from proposed zoning and related developments specifically any requiring licensing under air quality legislation
- Improve integration of development and both public and private green spaces – green infrastructure
- Flood risk and appropriate zoning of lands identified as at risk of flooding
- Coastal protection as a response to impacts from climate change

4.8. Material Assets

Material assets are identified in this report as the critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment, transportation, etc. Material assets can be both natural and man made. The former has been previously identified in other sections of this scoping report – such as soil, water, biodiversity and landscapes of both scenic and cultural significance. In this section material assets will specifically focus on man-made infrastructure such as transport (road, rail and air) and other public infrastructure. In particular, water supply and waste-water infrastructure are intrinsically linked to water but as the infrastructure for both are identified as a material asset they are discussed in this section.

Considering the position of the Tralee MD LAP in the policy framework outlined in Section 2, infrastructure within the MD LAP is guided to a large degree by higher level plans notably the KCDP but also the strategic national plans such as Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Irish Water. Nonetheless, the Tralee MD LAP will play a pivotal role in supporting objectives for local infrastructure including works to the local road network; public infrastructure including active travel infrastructure, zoning for public infrastructure and the facilitation of the provision of broadband infrastructure.

Having regard to the above, the potential likely significant effects of implementing the Tralee MD LAP on material assets, for consideration in the ER include but are not limited to:

- Drinking water requirements
- Waste Water treatment requirements
- Competing land uses within the plan area
- Impacts on other environment parameters – biodiversity, water, soil etc – from policies/objectives relating to material assets
- Aligning settlement patterns with existing infrastructure
- Impacts on the national road network from zoning/development including proposed new road networks
- Access points onto national road network (specifically zones 50kph and 60kph)
- Noise related to material assets specifically road infrastructure/traffic
- Broadband infrastructure
- Re-use of existing building stock
- Active travel infrastructure

4.9. Cultural Heritage including Archaeological and Architectural Heritage

Cultural heritage within the LAP predominately includes archaeological heritage and built heritage. The archaeological heritage of the county is protected via the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. It makes provision for the compilation of a record of all known monuments in the County - The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). This list is provided in the KCDP. In addition, Kerry has a number of specific archaeological landscapes where the landscape setting and character of monuments are protected. These archaeological special protection areas are listed in the KCDP. Finally, underwater archaeology is another resource recognised within the county. In relation to built heritage the architectural heritage of the county is provided on a Register of Protected Structures, also listed in the KCDP. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) provides additional information on the architectural heritage of the county.

Considering the position of the Tralee MD LAP in the policy framework outlined in Section 2, cultural heritage is to a large degree protected by over-arching policies and objectives as outlined in the KCDP and other applicable legislation. Nonetheless, the LAP will have a role both protecting but also promoting cultural heritage at a local level. The LAP for example will have objectives for the protection of cultural heritage but also objectives for tourism, recreation and the arts. All can require access/interpretation of cultural heritage sites as a means to lever economic benefit for communities.

Having regard to the above, the potential likely significant effects of implementing the Tralee MD LAP on cultural heritage, for consideration in the ER include but are not limited to:

- Promoting the re-use of derelict/vacant buildings particularly in urban areas, in particular several former institutional buildings
- Promoting innovative design in the adaptative reuse of built heritage particularly within the key settlements.
- Increased pressures on cultural heritage sites from tourism/recreational use
- Zoning/development in areas with archaeological potential – terrestrial and underwater
- Zoning/development in areas with architectural heritage – including setting and curtilages
- Visual impacts on archaeological special protection areas

4.10. Landscape

Volume 1, Appendix 7 of the KCDP outlines views and sensitive landscapes throughout the county. The plan also includes objectives regarding the protection of such landscape designations and amenities.

Considering the position of the Tralee MD LAP in the policy framework outlined in Section 2, landscape particularly in rural areas is to a large degree both influenced and protected by over-arching policies and objectives outlined in the KCDP. Notwithstanding this the LAP will have the potential to influence local landscapes specific urban landscapes within the settlements contained in the LAP area. Proposed zoning and associated development for example will have the potential to impact on settlements identified for population growth. Village design statements, public realm plans and other locally led plans can form part of a response to integrating development within local town and streetscapes.

Having regard to the above, the potential likely significant effects of implementing the Tralee MD LAP on landscape, for consideration in the ER include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on urban street/townscapes from zoning/developments,
- Impacts on architectural conservation areas from proposed urban regeneration/derelict site/vacant site schemes/developments,
- Promotion of architectural heritage in *placemaking*.

4.11. Interrelationships between Environmental Factors

The environmental factors assessed in the preceding sections are populations and human health; biodiversity (flora and fauna); soil; water; air quality; climatic factors; material assets; cultural assets and landscape. All factors are interlinked with many depending on or influencing other factors in complicated and complex interrelationships. This is particularly evident in the interrelationship between water; biodiversity and soil. Growing research has heightened the strong linkage between air quality and human health. Air quality in turn is heavily influenced in Ireland (including the Tralee MD Area) by air pollution – specifically from transport and burning fossil fuels for heat. Sprawling developments with increased dependence on car travel is significant in Ireland's challenges around climate action again notably in the Tralee MD. Planning policy outlined in the Tralee MD LAP will have the potential to affect these parameters both negatively but also positively, specifically in promoting more sustainable, compact development. The Environmental Report will assess in more detail the implications of the MD LAP on the interrelationships briefly discussed above. The SFRA and AA, as appropriate, will also inform this discussion.

5. DEVELOPMENT SCENARIOS FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN

5.1. Introduction

The development and assessment of alternatives is a legal requirement under the SEA Directive. “Reasonable” alternatives should be considered “taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme” (Article 5.1, SEA Directive 2001/EC/42). Article 5.1 goes on to note the Environmental Report should have “reasonable alternatives” that take into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme” requiring “an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives”. This implies three stages in the consideration of alternatives:

1. Identify reasonable alternatives;
2. Evaluate and compare the alternatives; and
3. Provide reasons for the choice of preferred alternative(s).

In practice, effective Environmental Reports “tell the story” of the alternatives including how reasonable alternatives have been identified, evaluated and compared, and the reasons for choosing the preferred alternative(s).

5.2. Development of alternatives

Alternatives must be reasonable, realistic and capable of implementation and should represent a range of different approaches within the statutory and operational requirements of a plan. The position of the MD LAP within the decision-making hierarchy outlined in Section 2 predetermines the scope of strategic alternatives available. Firstly, the geographical extent of the plan is set and there will be no alternative considered in expanding or reducing the study area extent. Secondly, the MD LAP is a landuse plan primarily concerned with the regulation of development in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area including the environmental impacts this development may have. The content is predetermined by relevant sections of the Planning and Development Act, (as amended). Thirdly, higher level plans specifically the RSES and the KCDP set strategic planning options for the MD LAPs. This specifically relates to the Core Strategy and associated settlement hierarchy that has been laid out in Chapter 3 of KCDP and briefly presented in Section 2.4 of this scoping report. Therefore, there is no scope to look at an alternative settlement hierarchy within the plan area. It should be noted that the Core Strategy is supported by the sustainable provision of drinking and wastewater infrastructure as informed by the strategic plans of Irish Water.

The alternative scenarios to be considered in the SEA are therefore limited by the above constraints. As noted in the EPA 2015 guidance on alternatives, the “do-nothing” option is not a viable alternative for a land use plan as there is a statutory requirement to make/and/or review land use plans. The “do-nothing” however can be used as a baseline against which alternatives can be compared.

Alternatives to be considered in the SEA of the Tralee MD LAP are most likely to address spatial alternatives, temporal alternatives and/or sectoral alternatives. These are deemed most relevant considering the local level at which the plan operates.

5.3. Assessment of Alternatives

Once the reasonable alternatives have been identified, they will be compared against each other and assessed against each other at an early stage in the plan-making process. The alternatives will be assessed at a high level against the Strategic Environment Protection Objectives (SEO) outlined in the next section. The results of the assessment will be presented as a matrix with the likely impacts of each alternative identified. This will allow a robust comparison of alternatives. Ultimately, the ER will set out what the preferred alternatives are and clear reasons why the preferred option was chosen over the other reasonable alternatives.

6. PROPOSED STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OBJECTIVES (SEO), TARGETS AND INDICATORS FOR THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

6.1. Introduction

SEA uses a combination of high level strategic environmental protection objectives (SEO), targets and indicators to describe and monitor change and predict impacts of proposed plans on the environment. SEOs and targets set aims and thresholds that should be taken into account when assessing the impact of proposed plans on the environment. Targets usually underpin SEOs and have a timeline and/or threshold which once breached, would trigger remedial action and thereby providing an early warning signal. Indicators are used to illustrate and communicate impact in a simple and effective manner. Indicators can also be used to form the basis of a monitoring programme for the plan, the results of which will inform the next review. How monitoring data will be available and from where, is presented below. The monitoring programme will be outlined in more detail and/or amended further to submission on this Scoping Report in the Environmental Report.

6.2. Development of SEA SEOs and Targets

The initial list of potential SEOs and targets to be used in the environmental report is outlined below in Table 6-1. The list is based on the environmental topics set out in Annex 1 (f) of the SEA Directive, which might be significantly impacted upon by the Plan. These include: population and human health, biodiversity (flora & fauna), water, soil, air quality, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these factors. Flooding is also included. The effects on these topics will address the positive and negative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, cumulative and synergistic impacts.

6.3. Development of SEA indicators

The purpose of indicators is to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan in meeting the SEA SEOs and targets. The proposed methodology for the development and selection of the SEA indicators will be based on:

- Overarching policies from plans/programmes of relevance to each environmental parameter
- Identifying existing environmental problems, which will inform the development of SEA SEOs and indicators
- A limited number of SEOs and indicators will be used, which will keep the assessment and monitoring manageable and strategic

The final determination of a potential set of indicators for this SEA is currently subject to review. The collection and assessment of baseline data and this scoping process will inform the final selection of an appropriate indicator set. However, it should be noted that the final set of SEOs and indicators will be determined by the availability of existing data, relevance, monitoring programmes and the scale of application. The initial list of potential indicators to be used in the environmental report is also outlined in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Indicative list of draft SEOs, targets and indicators of the Tralee MD LAP.

SEA Topic	Objective	Target	Indicators (over the lifetime of the plan)	Monitoring Available Where/Frequency	Data & Remedial Action, if applicable, and responsible authority
Population	P1: Guide the future development of the MD area in line with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy outlined in Chapter 2 of the KCDP	<p>The population growth occurs as per the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of the KCDP,</p> <p>That populations in the MD area have access to high quality residential, amenity and public infrastructure with sustainable travel patterns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census data and breakdown of population figures targeted for the key settlements in the MD area, Provision of public facilities over lifetime of the plan – amenity, recreational/green infrastructure Implementation of Master Plans/Design statements/public realm plans submitted with housing developments/undertaken for settlements Travel patterns within the MD area, including update of <i>active travel</i> options, Bringing back into use of Vacant sites and/or Derelict sites, Urban generation projects undertaken in key settlements, Development of <i>opportunity sites</i> identified 	<p>Yes – internal sections of KCC; Local enterprise office; Census data</p> <p>Frequency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trends from census cycle/geodirecto ry register; LAP review cycles 	<p>Review objectives and policy; review development management procedures.</p> <p>Planning Department, in consultation with other sections in KCC, including Capital Infrastructure Unit, Housing Unit, Economic Development Unit and LEO</p>
Human Health	HH1: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing	The local community are protected from threats to health and well-being linked to their local natural and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with existing legislation/regulations/conditions for relevant licences, permits etc for discharges, noise, odour and/or air quality, Any health clusters identified by HSE that may be linked to public services 	<p>Yes – EPA, Irish Water; KCC including Enforcement, Environment Sections, LAWPRO. SEAI</p> <p>Frequency:</p>	<p>Pursue reasons for non-compliance. Consultations with Environment</p>

SEA Topic	Objective	Target	Indicators (over the lifetime of the plan)	Monitoring Available Where/Frequency	Data & Remedial Action, if applicable, and responsible authority
		built environment, including air, water and noise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> such as the provision of water infrastructure, Provision of public and community facilities over lifetime of the plan – amenity, recreational/green infrastructure Properties retro-fitted for improved heating/energy efficiency, Compliance with the new Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual reports from EPA/Irish Water Annual reports from KCC sections LAP review WFD/LAWPRO cyclic reports HSE and EPA 	Section of KCC, Enforcement, EPA, LAWPRO and IW and/or HSE and EPA
Biodiversity (Flora/Fauna)	B1: Protect biodiversity including ecosystem services across the functions of relevance to the MD LAP	That biodiversity is integrated into all decision making across the functions of the MD LAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration/provision of green/blue infrastructure over the lifetime of the plan Use of nature based solutions particularly in management of surface water run-off, Actions undertaken to support All Ireland Pollinator Plan, Ecological reports submitted with planning applications Compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive Landscaping plans for developments – native species/ecological networks/planting for pollinators, Actions of from the Kerry BAP completed 	<p>Yes – from KCC Sections; KBAP, NBDC <i>All Ireland Pollinator Plan</i> tracker/web-tool; NPWS data/habitat mapping/CORINE mapping.</p> <p>Frequency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual/Biennial NPWS Art 17 cycle LAP review WFD cycle 	<p>Review of policy and objectives, Land Use plans, other LA plans and projects and development management procedures.</p> <p>Consultation with Planning Department, NPWS, IFI, LAWPRP</p>
Soil	S1: Protect soils against pollution, and prevent	That the soil and the geological heritage of the MD LAP area is	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green field/brown field sites zoned for development in MD LAP area % brownfield/infill sites developed compared to greenfield sites 	Yes- KCC Sections; GSI; CORINE/Teagasc; EPA/LAWPRO	Review of policy and objectives and

SEA Topic	Objective	Target	Indicators (over the lifetime of the plan)	Monitoring Available Where/Frequency	Data &	Remedial Action, if applicable, and responsible authority
	degradation of the soil resource across the functions of relevance to the MD LAP	protected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census data and breakdown of population growth in urban versus rural areas Any geohazards from activities/developments supported in the plan including flooding Geological reports/relevant sections of EIA submitted with planning applications. Impacts to GSC sites from development 	Frequency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFD cycle Annual/Biennial Reports from KCC & LAWPRO Census data 		<p>development management procedures.</p> <p>Consultation with Planning Department, Capital infrastructure Unit and Environment/E nforcement, KCC and other statutory bodies if applicable.</p>
Water	W1: Ensure compliance with the objectives of the WFD for waterbodies within the MD area	Significant pressures identified to waterbodies linked to land uses governed by the plan are addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status/risk of waterbodies under the WFD with pressures associated for land uses governed by the LAP The risk of AFA under the next cycle of the WFD, Compliance of water infrastructure for settlements with targeted population growth Compliance with existing legislation/regulations/conditions for relevant licences, permits etc for discharges Use of nature based solutions particularly in management of surface 	<p>Yes- KCC; EPA/LAWPRO; OPW.</p> <p>Frequency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFD cycle Annual reports KCC, EPA and LAWPRO. 		<p>Pursue non-compliance and/or pollutions event, Review of policy and objectives and development management procedures.</p> <p>Consultation with Planning</p>

SEA Topic	Objective	Target	Indicators (over the lifetime of the plan)	Monitoring Available Where/Frequency	Data & Remedial Action, if applicable, and responsible authority
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> water run-off, Implementation of flooding projects. 		Department, Environment, Enforcement, KCC and IW, LAWPRO.
Air Quality	AQ1: Protect local air quality from emissions that are harmful to human health and the local environment	That the quality of the local environment governed by the functions of the MD LAP protects local air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality/emissions/odour reports/relevant sections of EIA submitted with planning applications Compliance with existing legislation/regulations/conditions for air quality Travel patterns and modes of transport within the MD Uptake of <i>active travel</i> options and use of public transport, Integration/provision of green infrastructure over the lifetime of the plan Changes in the sources of space heating used by populations . Properties retro-fitted for improved heating systems, Compliance with the new Solid Fuel Regulations 2022 Air quality trends from real-time data on the number of days/Percentage change in number of days annually air quality levels exceeded EU air quality regulations for monitoring station 	Yes- Census; KCC sections; geodirectory register; EPA Frequency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census cycle Annual reports EPA & KCC Real time data from monitoring stations 	Pursue non-compliance. Review of policy and objectives and development management procedures. Consultation with Environment and Enforcement, KCC and planning department.
Climatic	C1: Ensure	That mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population/growth of settlements 	Yes- Census;	Review of

SEA Topic	Objective	Target	Indicators (over the lifetime of the plan)	Monitoring Available Where/Frequency	Data & Remedial Action, if applicable, and responsible authority
Factors	the plan supports a transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich and climate neutral economy and society	and adaptation to climate change inform the functions/decision making governed by the MD LAP	<p>identified in the <i>Core Strategy</i> for the MD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel patterns and modes of transport within the MD including <i>active Travel</i> options, Green/blue infrastructure/amenity infrastructure provided including cycleways/greenways/blueways/peat ways Number of new addresses in rural areas as per the Geodirectory Register, % brownfield sites developed compared to greenfield sites in key settlements Number of new houses within settlement boundaries Number of derelict houses/vacant properties in use within settlement boundaries, Results from Croi Conaithe and similar schemes, District heating scheme expanded for Tralee town Number of Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) established in the MD Actions from the Kerry Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and future LA CAP completed relating the MD, Flood Risk Assessment reports submitted with planning applications 	<p>geodirectory register; KCC sections; CORINE/Teagasc, Energy Office, KCC, and SEAI.</p> <p>Frequency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census cycle KCC internal annual records SEAI annual reports 	<p>policy and objectives and development management procedures.</p> <p>Consultation with planning department, Economic Development Unit, Energy office and Climate Change Co-ordinator Officer.</p>

SEA Topic	Objective	Target	Indicators (over the lifetime of the plan)	Monitoring Available Where/Frequency	Data & Remedial Action, if applicable, and responsible authority
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of nature based solutions & similar technologies Roll out of EV infrastructure Traffic patterns within the MD Area Renewable energy projects Emissions trends identified in the future LA CAP. 		
Material Assets	M1: Protect the material assets of the MD while optimising new assets to match proposed growth and sustainable development .	To promote sustainable development that matches existing and new infrastructure with the proposed population growth for the MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of infrastructure projects identified in the MD LAP Population growth in settlements with sufficient water infrastructure –drinking and waste water treatment Development of <i>opportunity sites</i> identified in settlements, Re-use of building stock within existing settlements including vacant and derelict sites, Roll out of National Broadband Plan Availability and development of digital hubs 	Yes- KCC sections; EPA; Irish Water, MD Office Frequency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census cycle Annual reports 	Review of policy and objectives and development management procedures. Planning Department, TII, NRDO and/or Economic Development Unit, KCC and MD office
Cultural Heritage	CH1: Protect the cultural heritage of MD LAP area	That protection of the LAP's cultural heritage informs the functions/decision making of the MD LAP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-use of vacant/derelict structures including vacant institutional buildings, Design statements/public realm plans submitted with housing developments/undertaken for settlements Archaeological Impact Assessments, and/or archaeological investigations 	Yes – KCC sections – Development Management; MD office; Arts Office and Tourism Office. Also Failte Ireland/OPW/NPWS	Pursue non-compliance Review of policy and objectives and development

SEA Topic	Objective	Target	Indicators (over the lifetime of the plan)	Monitoring Available Where/Frequency	Data & Remedial Action, if applicable, and responsible authority
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> undertaken Architectural Impact Assessments undertaken for PS/ACAs Visitor numbers for iconic cultural heritage sites. Number of literary, musical, artistic and other cultural initiatives undertaken in the MD Area 	Frequency: Various annual reports	management procedures. County Archaeologist /Conservation Officer/Irish Officer.
Landscape	L1 Protect the landscape of the MD LAP area	That landscapes identified in the MD area, including urban townscapes and streetscapes, are protected and enhanced by good design principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of opportunity sites in towns and settlements, Design statements/public realm plans submitted with housing developments/undertaken for settlements Visual Impact Assessments/relevant sections of EIA submitted with planning applications Architectural Impact Assessments undertaken for PS/ACAs 	Yes- KCC sections Frequency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual/Biennial reports LAP review 	Review of policy and objectives and development management procedures. Planning Department
Flooding	F1 Protect the community and infrastructure from inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding	That sustainable flood risk management practices are implemented in the MD LAP area in adherence to DOEHLG's <i>Guidelines on Flood Risk Management</i> and the KCDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Risk Assessment reports submitted with planning applications Development within areas identified as at flood risk Implementation of nature based solutions & similar approaches in flood mitigation Integration/provision of green and blue infrastructure over the lifetime of the plan Implementation of the Tralee Flood Relief Scheme 	Yes- KCC Sections; OPW. Frequency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAP cycle Annual reports CFRAM 	Review of policy and objectives and CFRAM project timelines, OPW in consultation with KCC.

SEA Topic	Objective	Target	Indicators (over the lifetime of the plan)	Monitoring Available Where/Frequency	Data &	Remedial Action, if applicable, and responsible authority
		2022-2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood events experienced over the plan period, Properties/areas flooded over the plan period 			

7. NEXT STAGE

7.1. Scoping Consultation

The following authorities will be consulted (via email) as part of the SEA scoping for the Tralee MD LAP 2022-2028:

- Environmental Protection Agency [sea@epa.ie],
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage including the DAU [sea@housing.gov.ie. and manager.dau@housing.ie & Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>],
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications [PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie], and
- Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine [Environmental_Coordination@agriculture.gov.ie]

Please note the SEA Scoping Report and Issues Paper of the Tralee MD LAP 2023-2029 is also available on-line at **<https://consult.kerrycoco.ie>**

The SEA Planning Regulations requires that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report may be made to the planning authority, within a specified period which shall be not less than 4 weeks from the date of the notice.

Kerry County Council requests that consultees make a submission, observation or comment on the Scoping Report between Thursday, 9th February and 5pm, on Friday, March 10th, 2023.

Signed submissions, observations or comments marked "Submission on SEA Scoping Report for the Tralee MD LAP 2023-2029" should be forwarded via:

1. Post to: Environmental Assessment Unit, Kerry County Council,
County Buildings,
Rathass, Tralee,
Co. Kerry, V92 H7VT.
2. A submission on <https://consult.kerrycoco.ie>

Consultation forms an integral part of the SEA methodology. Further statutory and non-statutory consultation will be undertaken as the SEA progresses from scoping to the drafting of the ER and final preparation of the SEA Statement. Consultation will inform the MD LAP as appropriate.

Closing date for submissions/observations is Friday, March 10th, 2023.

Submissions/observations received will be published online.